



## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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RE:EPR-ER

### PROGRESS POLLUTION REPORT EUREKA MILLS SITE Eureka, Utah

#### I. HEADING

Date: 7/16/2002  
Site Name: Eureka Mills  
From: Al Lange, OSC  
To: Patty Kalla, EPA Headquarters  
POLREP No.: #8

#### II. BACKGROUND

Site No.: CF  
Deliver Order No.: 0016-08-0875  
Response Authority: CERCLA  
NPL Status: NPL Proposed on June 14, 2001  
Action Memorandum: September 26, 2001 & October 11, 2001  
Start Date : April 15, 2002  
Demobilization Date: TBD  
Completion Date: TBD

#### III. SITE INFORMATION

##### A. Incident Category

Time-Critical, Fund-Lead, Removal Action

##### B. Site Description

###### 1. Site Location

The site is located in and around the town of Eureka, Juab County, Utah which is about 80 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. It is in part of two sections of the Salt Lake Principal Meridian: Section 18 of T10S,R2W; and Section 13 of T10S,R3W. The townsite is along both sites of the intermittent Eureka Creek and between mountains, both to the south and north. The town was started in



1870 and grew up around Gold, Silver, Lead and some Zinc mines. Waste piles are found on the south and west side of town.

### **3. Description of Threat**

Lead, and to a lesser degree Arsenic, contamination in the soil are the health threats in and around Eureka. For approximately eighty five years (1870' to 1950's), mining for metals has taken place around and under the town. Large waste piles were gradually built up, some of which are directly adjacent to residences. Some milling was attempted; however, in most cases the mills did not process ore very well and lasted only a few years. The abandoned mills were torn down or rebuilt elsewhere, or the materials were reused in town buildings. The contaminated mine and mill wastes around town were used as fill to level residential and business lots or roads within the City of Eureka. The climate is dry and the area is subjected to windy periods which can blow Lead-contaminated dust into residential areas.

## **IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION**

### **A. Situation**

#### **1. Investigation**

Investigative sampling continues in the City of Eureka, especially those lots that were by-passed for some reason during the summers of 2000 and 2001. Since starting this summer's (2002) work, 33 new lots have been sampled. Of these 14 have surface Lead contamination greater than 3000 ppm, 9 have contamination between 2000 and 2999 ppm and 10 have contamination between 1000 and 1999 ppm.

**Six of seven attic dust samples have been analyzed with the resulting Lead concentrations ranging from 1800 to 8800 ppm. The contaminated dust has been removed from four of the attics.**

#### **2. Action description**

The long range plan is for Emergency Response to remove soil from yard lots with Lead concentrations greater than 3000 ppm starting in the summer of 2001. When the site is listed as a Superfund site, the Remedial Program or

the Utah Department of Environmental Quality will remove soil from residential lots with Lead concentrations below 3000 ppm.

The time critical action will include the removal of soil from yards and lots containing Lead concentrations greater than 3000 ppm based on 2000 surface sample analyses, or lots where children live that have Lead-blood concentrations of greater than 10 µg/dl. In larger multiple zone lots designated for removal, all zones with concentrations over 500 ppm Lead will be removed at the same time. Mapping of the surface and 12-18" concentrations indicates that nearly half of those lots with elevated surface contamination are less than 500 ppm Lead below 12" depth. The base of the excavation will be sampled and remaining Lead concentrations determined with a Niton XRF instrument that is on-site. If the remaining concentrations are below 1200 ppm Lead, the excavation will be examined by an archeologist to determine if any historical artifacts are present. If the concentrations are greater than 1200 ppm Lead, another 6" of soil will be excavated and the sampling redone. After the excavation is cleared by the archeologist, at least 12" of compost-enriched top soil will be placed in the excavation. If the excavation is greater than 12", some backfill material (clay or sand) will be put in the excavation prior to top soil placement.

### **3. Current Actions**

Currently, three lots with homes on them are being excavated or backfilled with topsoil or road base. Two more are in the grubbing stage - i.e., debris removed prior to the actual soil removal. A total of 61 lots have been excavated and backfilled.

Twenty five of the 61 lots (approximately 3.5 acres) are in the preparation stage for the planting of grass, which is to occur over the next several weeks. The dirt needs to be thoroughly watered after tilling and leveling. Two different combinations of plants are being planned for use: one is a lawn grass composed of fescues, bluegrasses and ryegrasses; a second is a hardier combination used for reclamation projects and contains wheatgrasses, flax, wild rye, alfalfa, clover, penstemon, burnet and rabbitbrush. The later will be planted on larger areas that will not receive much water after the 7-8 weeks of

watering by the EPA. It is anticipated that during that interval the new city well will be connected to the city water supply and residents can water their grass/sod.

#### **4. Enforcement**

EPA is currently conducting a search to determine possible primary responsible parties.

#### **4. Project Schedule**

Removal activities were re-started on 4/15/2002, and this portion of long term Removal Action is scheduled to be completed by late-September of 2002.

### **V. COST INFORMATION**

The budget which was established for this Removal Action is \$ 3,488,380.00. **The current amount of money spent for wages and committed to contracts is approximately \$ 1,492,000.00.**